

**STATE BOARD OF POLYSOMNOGRAPHY
124 HALSEY STREET, NEWARK, NJ
MONMOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM, 7TH FLOOR
MAY 08, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

This scheduled meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Monmouth Conference Room, 7th Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ by the Chair, Michael Lahey.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Michael J. Lahey, RPSGT, Chair
Mitchell L. Rubinstein, RPSGT, Vice Chair
Penni L. Smith, RPSGT
Gerald J. Ferencz, M.D.
Sara Rose Gallagher, RPSGT
Don J. Fahy, RPSGT, Secretary

Absent:

Kathleen A. Feeney, RPSGT
John Penek, M.D.

Also in Attendance:

Susan Carboni, Deputy Attorney General
Lolly Merced, Administrative Asst. Standing in for Acting Executive Director
Burt Liebman, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
Tiesha Frederick, Administrative Staff
John H. Ganoe, CAE, Executive Director for The Board of Registered Polysomnography Technologist

Announcement of Quorum

The Chair announced that a quorum was present. The Chair also announced that in accordance with Chapter 231, of P.L. 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing to the Office of Secretary of State, The Newark Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Bergen Record and The Courier Post.

III REVIEW OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Penni Smith and seconded by Mitchell Rubinstein to approve the April 10, 2012 Public Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

IV. ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Newly Licensed Polysomnographers

A list of all initially licensed polysomnographers submitted for the Board to review.

Stephanie Robinson	49FW00030200	Bram R. Chua	49FW00030300
Joanne M. Weber	49FW00030400	Sherri A. Yanetta	49FW00030500
Sanjai Syamaprasad	49FW00030600		

A motion was made by Sara Rose Gallagher and seconded by Penni Smith to affirm the above listed applicants for licensure. Motion carried.

2. Executive Director Monthly Report

The Monthly Report was submitted for informational purposes.

3. The Board had a discussion on the renewal process of technologist and fee changes on the biennial license. The fee was reduced on the technologist license to \$250 after one-year had passed. The expiration for all technologist license is the end of February 2013.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. 10:30 a.m. Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Burt Liebman with New Proposed Regulations.

Burt Liebman standing in for Elizabeth Greenblatt, the Regulatory Analyst for the State Board of Polysomnography, opened the discussion with a re-cap of the April 10th meeting's concerns on proposed amendments to the Board's current regulations. At this time the Board and Regulatory Staff are working on specific language needed to amend some of the regulations.

The Board discussed the proposed amendments and tabled further discussion until the drafting of proposed amendments are available.

2. Discussion of recognition of NJ Licensure by Medicare.

This matter was tabled until we receive information from Medicare. The Chair, Mike Lahey, will send a letter to Medicare requesting information on the recognition of licensure to be insurable.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. 11:30 a.m. Presentation by John H. Ganoe, CAE, Executive Director for The Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists.

Please Review the Attachment

2. Discussion to determine if CPSGT exam can play a role in current licensing structure.

This matter was tabled for the next scheduled meeting.

3. Discussion of technologist role in the use of mandibular advancement devices in the sleep center.

This matter was tabled for the next scheduled meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Don Fahy and seconded by Penni Smith to close Public Session and go into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing confidential matters. Motion carried unanimously. The Public Session ended at 1:20 p.m.



BOARD OF REGISTERED
POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC
TEGHNOLOGISTS nrptorg

May 8, 2012

New Jersey State Board of Polysomnography
124 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07101

Submitted for Presentation at the May 8th, 2012 Meeting of the Board

To Chairman Mike Lahey and the Members of the Board:

My name is John Ganoë. I am the Executive Director of the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists (BRPT), the credentialing body which develops and delivers the Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT™) examination and awards the RPSGT™ credential. Our credentialing program is 33 years old; we have credentialed nearly 18,000 individuals worldwide, including 292 in New Jersey.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Board today as a representative of BRPT to express our support for the maintenance of the highest possible standard for credentialing exams recognized for purposes of licensure as a polysomnographic technologist in the state of New Jersey.

We recognize that there are other certifying examinations offered in the field of sleep technology, including the Specialty Exam for Sleep Disorders Specialists (SDS) administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) and the Registered Sleep Technologist (RST) exam administered by the American Board of Sleep Medicine (ABSM). We would defer to the Board's authority to recognize these examinations. However, we strongly believe that the standard which must be met in order to gain the Board's approval for recognition of an examination accepted for purposes of polysomnographic licensure in the State of New Jersey is accreditation of the certifying examination by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). This is the gold standard for national recognition of a credentialing exam.

The SDS exam earned NCCA accreditation in 2012. The RPSGT examination has been accredited by the NCCA for over ten years. While we acknowledge that the American Board of Sleep Medicine (ABSM) has been in existence for several years for the purpose of physician and

graduate-level certifications, it has only recently been involved in technologist certification. The first ABSM technologist examination was given November 11, 2011 to 19 people; 16 of those candidates passed the exam. There is no information on the ABSM website to reflect additional examination dates or activity. To date, over 99.5% of individuals who have been awarded the ABSM's RST credential did not earn the credential by examination but were "grandfathered" into it through possession of BRPT's RPSG^{PM} credential and by paying \$25. By comparison, *every technologist* who holds the RPSG^{RM} credential earned the credential by qualifying for and passing the RPSGTM exam: BRPT has never grandfathered technologists into the RPSGTM credential. The ABSM, at this early point, has not demonstrated that it has an independent concern about the quality of personnel credentialed into the field of polysomnographic technology.

The ABSM effort in New Jersey is part of an aggressive move to position the RST exam on par with long-standing, NCCA-accredited allied health credentials in licensure legislation and practice acts around the country. Those efforts have, to date, been unsuccessful in Idaho and New Mexico.

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies was created in 1987 by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of certification programs/organizations that assess professional competence. Certification programs that receive NCCA Accreditation demonstrate compliance with the NCCA's *Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*, which were the first standards for professional certification programs developed by the industry.

NCCA uses a peer review process to: establish accreditation standards; evaluate compliance with the standards; recognize organizations/programs that demonstrate compliance; and serve as a resource on quality certification. Certification organizations that submit their programs for accreditation are evaluated based on the process and products, not the content. NCCA standards are therefore applicable to all professions and industries. NCCA accreditation represents strict adherence to best practices in professional credentialing, validated by an independent third party.

NCCA accredited programs certify individuals in a wide range of professions and occupations including nurses, respiratory therapists, automotive professionals, polysomnographic technologists, counselors, emergency technicians, crane operators and more. To date, NCCA has accredited over 200 programs from more than 100 organizations.

We believe that any certification examination which is accepted or approved for the purposes of meeting requirements for licensure as a polysomnographic technologist in New Jersey must be accredited by the NCCA or its successor. Recognition of any examination which is not NCCA accredited lowers the standards for certifying examinations in polysomnography and is not in the best interests of protecting the health and welfare of New Jersey consumers of PSG services. *We are aware of no compelling evidence that demonstrates the need to lower this standard.*

We urge the Board to establish NCCA accreditation as the Board standard for recognition of a credentialing exam accepted for purposes of licensure of polysomnographic technologists in the state of New Jersey.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board and for your careful consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized signature consisting of the letters 'N' and 'Y' in a serif font, with a vertical line extending from the top of the 'Y'.

John H. Ganoe, CAE
Executive Director
The Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists